

Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council
Meeting Summary
of
February 13, 2007
Robert Danhof Conference Room
Constitution Hall, Lansing, Michigan

Council Members

Suhmed Bahl	Jim Cleland
James Clift	Jon Coleman
Michael Gregg	Kurt Heise
Fred Henningsen	Rod Mersino
Michael Newman	William Pearson
Scott Piggott	Dr. Paul Seelbach
Dr. Alan Steinman (phone in)	

Guests

Jim Bredin MDEQ-OGL	Joyce Dunkin Limno
Patricia Fouchey MDNR	Fred Goldberg
Dave Hamilton MDEQ-LWMD	Mike Johnston MMA
Lyndon Kelley MSU	Bill Maier LBWL
Bobbi McClead – Nestle Waters	Howard Reeves USGS
Frank Ruswick MDEQ	Gene Smary
Andy Such	Troy Zorn MDNR

Introductions / Meeting Logistics

Kurt Heise welcomed everyone to the Michigan Groundwater Conservation Advisory Council. Everyone present introduced themselves. Lunch is being provided thanks to Michael Newman of the Michigan Aggregates Association with setup thanks to MDEQ Secretary Laura Smith.

Final Report to the Legislature

Co-Chairman Kurt Heise reminded all of the council members that on July 1, 2007, a report is due. Mr. Heise recapped the GWCAC Objectives. This report will be a follow-up of the last report. There are many new legislators who don't have original report. There are no original reports left. They will be directed to the GWCAC website to view the first report. The upcoming report shouldn't duplicate the first report.

Subcommittee Updates

Mitigation

A meeting was held last week. There are five issues the committee would like to address. Hands out of the issues were distributed. The issues are: 1 Develop a draft list of conditions when mitigation is appropriate. 2. Develop a draft list of activities that qualify as appropriate mitigation. This list will be driven by the conditions where mitigation is deemed appropriate. 3. Development of list of items that must be submitted with a mitigation plan. 4. Development of a list of performance standards and financial assurance requirements. 5. List of conditions under which conservation easements maybe required

Sustainability

Revisions as suggested by the council members over the past month had been made to the Groundwater Sustainability Workshop Agenda titled version 5 dated February 12. The agenda was again reviewed. There were no objections.

Sixty two letters of invitation to the Groundwater Sustainability Workshop have been sent out. To date 15 have replied yes. 1 has said no.

Assessment Tool

David Hamilton showed a PowerPoint presentation. The tool is not fully functionally so examples were given in areas where data is available.

A map will appear. The user can find where they are will be drilling by zooming in or entering an address. The user will then be asked to enter withdrawal characteristics.

The Hydrogeology Model does a very good job of representing what Michigan has. A slide listed the 6 variables used to predict the index flow. These are simple equations. The information is easily obtained. The variables are % of high transmissivity geology, % of flow transmissivity geology, % "A" (high infiltration) soils, % "D" (low infiltration) soils, % forest cover, mean annual precipitation (inches).

The Ecology Model was presented by Howard Reeves. Fish habitat optima were identified through low-flow yield, catchment area, and July mean temperature. 82 of the most common species used. Mr. Reeves showed a few examples of what the tool came up with verses actual figures.

Lunch provided thanks to Michael Newman of the Michigan Aggregates Association.

Comparison - Howard Reeves talked about testing the tool. He discussed the testing of analytical methods for range of conditions in Michigan. Graphs were shown.

There is error in every model but this is a very good model. The model never says no. It will instruct the user to contact DEQ.

Nestle Water No Adverse Resource Impact (ARI) - David Hamilton spoke on how the tool was used to make a determination on the effects of Twin Creek and Chippewa Creek. The location of the well was shown. The tool results were compared to site specific data. Both concluded no ARI.

Policy Knobs –David Hamilton spoke on policy knobs. He asked and answered. “Is the data accurate? It is as good as what exists to date.” With a factor of two 90% of time the tool will catch an ARI. Mr. Hamilton distributed a handout of predicted / observed results.

Next Meetings

March 20, 2007, from 10:00 to 3:00 at the Wade Trim Office at 25251 Northline Road in Taylor, Michigan

April 19, 2007, from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm at the RAM Center in Roscommon, Michigan.

May 15, 2007, from 10:00 am till 3:00 pm at the Farm Bureau Center in Lansing, Michigan hosted by Scott Piggott.

June 8, 2007, 10:00 am till 3:00 pm tentatively at Drummond Island.